

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1899 - SB 1864

February 21, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes a teacher with a temporary permit to apply to the Department of Education (DOE) for a practitioner license to continue teaching the course or subject area taught pursuant to the teacher's temporary permit under certain conditions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$15,000/FY22-23
\$3,000/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years**

Other Fiscal Impact – The relaxed licensure requirements enacted by the Commissioner of Education as well as changes in rules, policies, and law have led to a significant increase in teacher licensure. Should the increase in licensure applications continue at the current pace, future increases in staffing resources may be necessary to timely process applications. The extent and timing of such need is unknown.

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-5-105 requires that LEAs or public charter schools demonstrate that they were unable to secure a properly licensed teacher to fill a vacancy in order for a temporary teaching permit to be issued. It further authorizes the Commissioner of DOE, through the State Board of Education rulemaking process, to determine additional requirements for the issuance of a temporary credential to teach.
- The proposed legislation creates a new pathway from an emergency credential to a practitioner license for individuals who hold a valid teaching permit, have earned an overall performance designation of "at expectations," "above expectations," or "significantly above expectations" on the emergency credentialed teacher's most recent performance evaluation and a letter of recommendation from the director of schools or public charter school.
- DOE's management data system licensure application (TNCompass) will need to be modified to accommodate a new licensure pathway.
- Based on a quote from DOE's Educator Management System vendor, RANDA, developing a new workflow in TNCompass for individuals transitioning from a permit to a license will require a one-time cost of \$15,000 and a recurring annual maintenance cost of \$3,000.

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- According to the Department of Education, the Commissioner relaxed licensure requirements regarding prior work experience, postsecondary coursework, and degrees held, relevant experience in the subject area where the applicant is seeking to teach and progress toward obtaining full licensure during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years due to staffing challenges related to COVID-19 pandemic.
- The relaxing of licensure requirements, as well as changes to law, rule and policies regarding application requirements. Typical annual licensure applications increase by less than 10 percent, yet the department saw an increase of 15 percent between 2020 and 2021.
- It is unknown how long the Commissioner will continue to allow the relaxed licensure requirements or the extent this proposal will have on the significant increase in applications the department is currently experiencing. While it is assumed enactment of the proposed legislation will not solely result in the department needing to hire additional staff, the culmination of rule, policy, and law changes may result in the department needing additional staff to handle increased licensure applications.
- The total increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$15,000 in FY22-23 and \$3,000 in FY23-24 and subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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